86. The computer network recited in claim 75, wherein the state information is stored in the cache repository according to a hash table.

87. The computer network recited in claim 86, wherein the state information is stored in the cache repository using a BUZhash algorithm.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of this Amendment prior to examination. This Amendment adds new claims 41-87, which are presented in order to more fully claim the various features of the invention. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0733 in the amount of $549.00, in payment of the extra claims presented herewith. Please charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this submission to said Deposit Account.

Examination on the merits is respectfully awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

New claims 41-87 have been added as follows:

41. A method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers, comprising:

initiating, from a first server computer, a communication session with a client computer;

storing, at the first server computer, state information reflecting the communication session between the first server computer and a client computer; and

transmitting the state information from the first server computer to a second server computer, so that the second server computer can enter into a communication session with the client computer using the state information.

42. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 41, further including transmitting the state information from the first server computer to a third server computer, so that the third server computer can enter into a communication session with the client computer using the state information.

43. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 42, wherein the state information is transmitted from the first server computer to the second server computer and the third server computer simultaneously.

44. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 43, wherein the state information is transmitted from the first server computer to the second server computer and the third server computer using a multicast transmission.

45. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 44, wherein the multicast transmission is a positive acknowledgement multicast transmission.

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46. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 44, wherein the multicast transmission is a negative acknowledgement multicast transmission.

47. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 41, wherein the state information is credential information.

48. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 47, wherein the credential information includes a Secure Sockets Layer session identifier.

49. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 48, wherein the credential information further includes Secure Sockets Layer session information.

50. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 47, wherein the state information includes authentication information for a user of the client computer.

51. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 41, wherein the state information is data segment information for controlling transmission of a data segment between the first server computer and the client computer.

52. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 51, wherein the state information is Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol header information.

53. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 41, wherein the state information is purchase information for a purchase transaction communicated between the first server computer and the client computer.

54. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 53, wherein the purchase information identifies a purchase item selected for purchase by a user of the client computer.

55. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 53, wherein the purchase information includes financial transaction information for a user of the client computer.

56. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 53, wherein the purchase information includes a billing address of a user of the client computer.

57. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 41, further including storing the state information at the first server computer in a cache memory.

58. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 57, wherein the state information is stored in the cache memory according to a hash table.

59. The method of sharing state information recited in claim 58, wherein the state information is stored in the cache memory using a BUZhash algorithm.

60. A method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers, comprising:

receiving first state information from a first server computer, the first state information reflecting a first communication session between the first server computer and a first client computer;

storing the first state information;

receiving second state information from a second server computer, the second state information reflecting a second communication session between the second server computer and a second client computer;

storing the second state information;

receiving a request for the first state information from a third server computer; and

transmitting the first state information to the third server computer, such that the third server computer can employ the first state information to reestablish the first communication session with the first client computer.

61. The method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers recited in claim 60, further comprising:

receiving a request for the second state information from a fourth server computer; and

transmitting the second state information to the fourth server computer, such that the fourth server computer can employ the second state information to reestablish the second communication session with the second client computer.

62. The method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers recited in claim 60, wherein the first state information is credential information.

63. The method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers recited in claim 62, wherein the credential information includes a Secure Sockets Layer session identifier.

64. The method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers recited in claim 63, wherein the credential information further includes Secure Sockets Layer session information.

65. The method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers recited in claim 62, wherein the credential information includes authentication information for a user of the first client computer.

66. The method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers recited in claim 60, wherein the first state information is data segment information for controlling transmission of a data segment between the first server computer and the first client computer.

67. The method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers recited in claim 66, wherein the first state information is Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol header information.

68. The method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers recited in claim 60, wherein the first state information is purchase information for a purchase transaction communicated between the first server computer and the first client computer.

69. The method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers recited in claim 68, wherein the purchase information identifies a purchase item selected for purchase by a user of the first client computer.

70. The method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers recited in claim 68, wherein the purchase information includes financial transaction information for a user of the first client computer.

71. The method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers recited in claim 68, wherein the purchase information includes a billing address of a user of the client computer.

72. The method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers recited in claim 60, further including storing the first state information and the second state information in a cache memory.

73. The method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers recited in claim 72, wherein the first state information and the second state information are stored in the cache memory according to a hash table.

74. The method of sharing state information among a plurality of server computers recited in claim 73, wherein the first state information and the second state information are stored in the cache memory using a BUZhash algorithm.

75. A computer network, comprising:

a plurality of server computers, each server computer employing state information reflecting a communication session with an associated client computer;

a cache repository for storing a cache containing the state information for each of the plurality of server computers; and

a plurality of cache memories, each cache memory being associated with one of the plurality of server computers and storing only a portion of the cache stored in the cache repository.

76. The computer network recited in claim 75, wherein the state information is credential information.

77. The computer network recited in claim 75, wherein the credential information includes Secure Sockets Layer session identifiers identifying a communication session between at least one of the plurality of servers and a client computer.

78. The computer network recited in claim 77, wherein the credential information further includes Secure Sockets Layer session information.

79. The computer network recited in claim 77, wherein the credential information includes authentication information for a user of the client computer.

80. The computer network recited in claim 75, wherein the state information is data segment information for controlling transmission of a data segment between at least one of the plurality of server computers and a client computer.

81. The computer network recited in claim 80, wherein the state information is Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol header information.

82. The computer network recited in claim 75, wherein the state information is purchase information for a purchase transaction communicated between at least one of the plurality of server computers and a client computer.

83. The computer network recited in claim 82, wherein the purchase information identifies a purchase item selected for purchase by a user of the client computer.

84. The computer network recited in claim 82, wherein the purchase information includes financial transaction information for a user of the client computer.

85. The computer network recited in claim 82, wherein the purchase information includes a billing address of a user of the client computer.

86. The computer network recited in claim 75, wherein the state information is stored in the cache repository according to a hash table.

87. The computer network recited in claim 86, wherein the state information is stored in the cache repository using a BUZhash algorithm.